

HKBA AGM 2023

Venue – IRC, 63 Caroline Hill Road, Sookunpoo Valley, Hong Kong

Attendees – HKBA Members

Date 14th May 2023

Time 3.30 pm

Total attendees: 35 members

Following were the activities :

- To confirm the minutes of the AGM held on 29 May 2022.
- To receive the Annual Report for 2022-2023
- To pass the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 Mar 2023.
- To increase the provision for additional EC members.
- To elect Committee Members for the period 2023-2025.
- To transact any other business of the association.
- Break for refreshments

Members Present during the AGM :

Accepted — Ripal Khosla

Sl. No	Member Name	Signature
1	BITASKAR SENGUPTA,	*a
2	DEBJANI SENGUPTA	1
3	Rasubi Roy	1 B Roy
4	SUPARNA PANJA	1
5	RAJIB PANJA	
6	KAVITA Biswas	
7	SANJAY Biswas.	
8	BIPZAB MANNA	Ripal
9	DEBAJYOTI CHOJDHURY	
10	DERIKA SARKAR	
11	SAGNIK GANGULI	
12	ABHIRAM GHOSH	
13	Sangay Bhattacharya	
14	Alok Ban	
15	JWJITA GHOSH	
16	AMITAVA BANERJEE	
17	Pradip Pantakunda	
18	Hemanta Kumar Das	Hemanta
19	CHIRANJIB BANERJEE	CB
20	ANINDA BHATTACHARYA	
21	ATANU KUMAR GHOSH	
22	DEBJYOTI SARKAR	
23	Dipankar Mukherjee	
24	Deblata Barman	
25	Swati Karanjai +1	
26	Nayana Banerjee	Nayana Banerjee
27	D. Chatterpadhyay	
28	ANGSHUJIT SINHA	
29	Sumindra K Das	
30	Chanchal Kumar Chan	chanchal Kumar Chan
31	ASHIS GANGULY	
32	Randeep Naha	
33	ABHIRAM SARKAR	
34	SEJIB SAHA	
35	AMBAR MITRA.	AMM.

AGM proceeding :

- To confirm the minutes of the AGM held on 29 May 2022.
Acceptance was proposed by Mr. Biplab Manna and seconded by Mr. Chanchal Chan.

All members agreed to adopt the minutes.

- To receive the Annual Report for 2022-2023
HKBA president Mr. Alok Roy gave the welcome address and presented a summary of events during 2022-2023. The President thanked all members for their support and for making all the events a success by being present in good numbers.

Highlights of his presentation were

- Summary of all events conducted during the year 2022-2023. These were Durga Puja, Bijoya Sammelani, Laxmi Puja, Annual Picnic, Saraswati Puja, and Rabindra Jayanti.
 - He thanked each of the EC members for standing by him, for their efforts and supporting him during his term as President.
 - He thanked our member Mr. Anirban Raychaudhuri for his contribution to the publication of HKBA Magazine.
 - Donation of HKD 5,000 made to Po Leung Kuk Charitable Institution.
 - He also thanked Mr. Sunirmal Das and Mr. Chiradip De for auditing the HKBA Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 Mar 2023.
 - President stated that membership fees were increased to HK\$3,000 for families, HK\$1,500 for single members, and for Associate Member 2,800.
 - Old members who discontinued their membership during COVID and wanted to rejoin were regularized without collecting arrears.
 - The number of activities in 2022-2023 was more than in previous year.
 - Physical membership cards were made redundant and digital cards were introduced which are now in place.
- To pass the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 Mar 2023.
 - Mr. Rajib Panja (Treasurer) presented the accounts. All expenses were explained in detail.
 - It was mentioned that there was an additional expense of HKD 12,000 for the storage of Durga Pratima in the years before it was free.

Question by Members	EC's Response
Mr. Biplab Manna enquired if the year 2022-2023 ended in a surplus.	It was clarified by the treasurer Mr. Rajib Panja that there was a deficit of HKD 43,973.52 in 2021-2022.
Biplab Manna asked about cash in hand.	Mr. Rajib Panja and Mr. Alok Roy mentioned cash received during the Durga puja, Laxmi puja, and Saraswathi puja was used to pay expenses, and the remaining amount was deposited in the bank after each puja. So the statement only shows cash at the bank and no cash in hand. The amount in the bank as of 31 Mar 2023 is HKD 1,240,139.44.

	It was also mentioned that the Rabindra Jayanti expenses were incurred after 31 Mar 2023 but before the AGM was paid afterward. The actual cash at the bank at the time of the AGM is less than on 31 Mar 2023.
Mr. Chanchal Chan wanted to know about the membership status	The Secretary Mr. Sanjay Bhattacharyya mentioned that the current membership number is 160 (145 family members and 15 Single members). This is the highest so far. Last year we had 34 new members who joined in the year 2022.
Mr. Chanchal Chan wanted to know how many members discontinued their membership in 2022	Mr. Sanjay Bhattacharyya informed us that 24 such people discontinued their membership. Many are now relocated out of Hong Kong, but the reason for others is unknown.
Mr. Biplab Manna inquired if we can appeal to be made to the HK Govt to provide a storage place to keep Durga Deity.	Mr. Sanjay Bhattacharyya mentioned that the initiative to look for such Govt storage space has not been fruitful. He also requested all members to reach out to their contacts to arrange for storage space at a reduced cost, if not free.
Due to sufficient surplus, Mr. Chanchal Chan asked if the membership amount could be reduced.	Mr. Alok Roy mentioned that even if there is a surplus, sponsorship is uncertain, so reducing the membership fees would not be a good idea. Further, this year the association will be celebrating 25 years for which the scale of celebration would be more.
Mr. Biplab Manna asked if a timeline could be provided within which the association may look to reduce the membership.	Mr. Alok Roy mentioned that this could be deliberated on based on excess funds after this year i.e. 2023-2024.
Mr. Atanu Ghosh suggested that since it's HKBA's 25th year, it would be good to have additional events like Anondomela with food stalls. Also, we can arrange for celebrities to perform in the Annual Program.	Mr. Alok Roy mentioned that the above points were noted and to be looked into by the new EC committee.
Mr. Biplab Manna said that the initiative taken during COVID by the committee to have Bengali lessons was widely appreciated and requested to continue with such efforts. He also mentioned the teachers could be monetarily rewarded to keep them interested.	Mr. Alok Roy mentioned that the above points were noted and to be looked into by the new EC committee.

The accounts were proposed to be accepted by Mr. Amitabh Banerjee and this motion was seconded Mr. Chiranjib Banerjee. The accounts were then considered to be passed by the members.

- To increase the provision for additional EC members.
President Mr. Alok Roy mentioned that due to increase in the HKBA member base and also the logistics involved in arranging for any event for such a large number of members we should increase the number of EC committee by 20% i.e. from 9 EC committee members to 11 committee members.

The motion was approved by Mr. Ambar Mitra and seconded Mr. Debdutta Barman

It was decided that we include 2 additional members in provisional basis from this year only and the change in constitution and any other legal matters will be completed in due course.

Nominations for 11 members were received and all of them were included in the new committee. Below is the list of nominated members

1. Pradip Putatunda
2. Bhaskar Sengupta
3. Sanjay Bhattacharyya
4. Angshujit Sinha
5. Alok Roy
6. Rajdeep Majumder
7. Sagnik Ganguly
8. Srijita Ghosh
9. Samrat Biswas
10. Debdutta Barman
11. Debjyoti Sarkar.
12. Dipankar Mukutmoni

Mr. Dipankar Mukutmoni whose name was also in the proposal list, opted out of the committee due to personal and professional commitments. He however promised that he would do his best to support the committee and the association.

Mr. Mukutmoni thanked the outgoing President Mr. Alok Roy for his leadership and support in the challenging times during which there was the Hong Kong unrest and the COVID and during the last 4 years.

- To elect Committee Members for the period 2023-2025.
All the nominated members were included in the new EC committee. Below is the list and position to be held in the new committee

EC 2023-2025 Members

Member Name	Position
Pradip Putatunda	President
Bhaskar Sengupta	Vice President
Sanjay Bhattacharyya	General Secretary
Angshujit Sinha	Treasurer
Alok Roy	General Member
Rajdeep Majumder	General Member
Sagnik Ganguly	General Member
Srijita Ghosh	General Member

Samrat Biswas	General Member
Debdutta Barman	General Member
Debjyoti Sarkar	General Member

- To transact any other business of the association.
 - A request was made to Sunirmal Das and Rajiv Panja to be Auditors for the next year. They have agreed subjected to their availability.